

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093545
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 ACDA-12 SS-15 NSCE-00 H-02 PM-05 DODE-00
SP-02 INRE-00 SSO-00 EA-12 (ISO) R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 093545

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XD

SUBJECT: MAGAZINE ARTICLE ON U.S. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES
IN HIMALAYAS

1. THE APRIL 12 "TODAY SHOW" CARRIED A REPORT OF AN ARTICLE WHICH IS CURRENTLY APPEARING IN "OUTSIDE," A SUCCESSOR MAGAZINE TO ROLLING STONES." THIS ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT IN LATE 1964 WHEN THE CHINESE EXPLODED THEIR FIRST NUCLEAR BOMB THE CIA FOUND THAT IT HAD NO WAY TO MONITOR FURTHER CHINESE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES. ACCORDINGLY, THE CIA ARRANGED TO HAVE A GROUP OF FOURTEEN MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS TRAVEL TO THE HIMALAYAS AND PLANT A NUCLEAR MONITORING DEVICE. THE MAGAZINE CLAIMS THAT THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN INTERVIEWS WITH EIGHT OF THE FOURTEEN MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS AND THAT THESE PERSONS WHO ARE NOT EMPLOYED BY THE CIA ACTED OUT OF PATRIOTIC REASONS. THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT INDIAN INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES WERE TRICKED IN THIS MATTER AND ARE NOT AWARE THAT A NUCLEAR-POWERED DEVICE WAS BROUGHT INTO INDIA.

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2. THE DEVICE WAS SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT TO INDIA AND CARRIED INTO THE MOUNTAINS. DUE TO BAD WEATHER THE TEAM HAD TO ABANDON THE DEVICE TEMPORARILY AND IT WAS THEN BURIED BY AN AVALANCHE AT 17,000 FEET. THE TEAM SUCCEEDED IN LOCATING THE DEVICE BUT COULD NOT RECOVER IT AND IT WAS LEFT THERE.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON REPORTEDLY WAS NOT INFORMED OF THE

FAILURE OF THIS MISSION.

3. THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO RADIO-ACTIVE CONTAMINATION SO FAR THE DEVICE WILL ULTIMATELY LEAK AND INTRODUCE RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION INTO THE HEADWATERS OF THE GANGES.

4. CONGRESSMAN OTTINGER HAS REPORTEDLY DELIVERED A LETTER TO THE WHITE HOUSE DEMANDING INVESTIGATION OF THESE CHARGES.

5. WE WILL CABLE THE FULL TEXT OF THE ARTICLE WHEN WE OBTAIN IT. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES, WE HAVE STATED THAT WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, MAGAZINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: PWLANDE:CF
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780465/aaaacdci.tel
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